

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Claim 9 has been canceled and claim 10 has been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 and 10-20 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

With the cancellation of claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claim 9 is moot.

The amendment to claim 10 merely corrects a grammatical error. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment nor has the scope of the claim been changed.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Winston. In making the rejection, the Examiner states:

As for claims 1, 10 and 17, Winston teaches a method for increasing control information from a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism (see figure 3, module detection unit 310 and column 4 line 50 to column 5 line 27, wherein the detection unit 310 detects card insertion for slot 103, 106), the method comprising:

utilizing a single GPIO mechanism with a socket on a computer system (see figure 3, module detection unit 310, line 311 and column 4 line 50 to column 5 line 27, wherein the detection module monitors the present [sic] of card insertion in slots 103, 106 via line 311); and

determining whether a first card, a second card, or no card is installed in the socket according to detected changes in signals state on a single line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket (see figure 3, module detection unit 310, line 311, module occupation signal, module 2 occupation signal and column 4 line 50 to column 5 line 27, wherein the detection generates module 1 and module 2 occupation signal correspondingly to the detection line 311. Further, figure 7, step 701 discloses if slots 103, 106 is [sic] occupied or not). ...

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

As recited in the independent claims 1, 10, and 17 of the present invention, a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism is utilized with a socket on a computer system, and detection of at least three separate conditions of the socket occurs based on a single signal line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket. Further, the ability to detect at least three states on a single signal line in the present invention increases the control information available from the GPIO mechanism. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art of Winston fails to teach or suggest the recited invention.

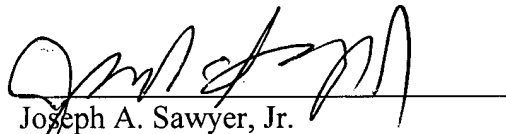
The Examiner asserts that Winston uses a single detection line 311 with a module detection unit to determine module 1 and module 2 occupation signals for slot connectors of a computer system. Applicant respectfully points out that although Figure 3 of Winston illustrates line 311 as a single bi-directional arrow, Winston's description of Figure 3 indicates that "Line 311 in FIG. 3 illustrates a plurality of module detection connections that connects the module detection unit 310 to a plurality of slot connectors." (col. 4, lines 57-60, emphasis added) Applicant fails to see how the use of a plurality of connection lines with a separate connection signal line for each slot connector, as taught in Winston, anticipates or even remotely suggests the recited utilization of a single signal line for determining three separate states of a socket. In fact, Applicant respectfully submits that the use of a plurality of connection signal lines teaches away from the use of a single signal line. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 17 are allowable over the cited art. Further, claims 2-8, 11-16, and 18-20 depend from one of the independent claims. Thus, these dependent claims include the features of the independent claims that are believed to be allowable over the cited art, while adding further features.

Therefore, claims 2-8, 11-16, and 18-20 are also respectfully submitted as allowable over the cited art for at least those reasons stated hereinabove.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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